

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER  
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2020

Draft

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Lynne Bertram, Chair.

Present: Norman (Nope) Martin, Brian Bontrager, Vicky Young, Nancy Robinson & Jeff Sailer (joined later)

Present via phone conference: Anne Robichaud, David Adams, Lynnette Claudon, Hugo Martinez Cazon, Allan Stein, VT Standard Reporter,

In person, Craig Jewett, Otter Creek Engineering and Collen Doyle

Visitors: No comment

Additions to agenda: None

Brian moved and Nope seconded to open the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) Hearing regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineering Study. Otter Creek Engineering has done an environmental impact study and has not found any issues. WWTF is in floodway, but upgrades to building will not require any permitting. Nope moved and Lynne seconded to close the Hearing at 4:35pm. Lynnette will issue environmental impact decision and send to Craig.

Craig also updated the board to the notice from Rural Development of the award of project grant of \$341,000 and loan of \$448,000. Craig is working with RD to confirm amounts and to see if there may be an additional offer. Board will need to decide if any loan amount will be put onto the wastewater users or spread over grand list for all taxpayers to absorb. Craig will speak/meet with RD to review funding offer and then will follow up with Lynne next week. If any paperwork needs to be signed, board authorized Lynne to do so.

While waiting for Jeff Sailer to arrive, board moved to agenda item of discussion of animal/rooster complaint in Bridgewater Center. Town has received multiple complaints from neighbors of rooster crowing during the day creating a nuisance. Anne asked if the town could do something to assist with this situation. Town has no current way to control this and suggested that neighbors work together to solve problem. Town Constable has made a visit to alert owner of neighbor's concerns. Town will write a letter to owner of rooster, with a copy to Ms. Robichaud acknowledging complaints of neighbors and requesting a neighborly resolution. Lynne asked Constable, David Adams to stay on top of this situation as well as other animal complaints on the Bridgewater Center Road, keep everything documented.

Board returned to follow the agenda and acted upon the minutes. Nope moved to accept the minutes of July 14, 2020 as written. Brian seconded the motion and motion carried.

**Highway Report:** Jeff reported that the road crew are currently grading and ditching roads. Discussion of right of way application from Green MT Power for Pole/Line relocation along a portion of Bridgewater Hill, Old Bridgewater Hill and Mountain View Road. Nope and Jeff are scheduled to meet with a GMP representative on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Lynne signed the reimbursement request paperwork for the Atwood Lane project. New truck is going to body shop (Viking) in early August and delivery is expected in September. Jeff and Nancy have a scheduled phone conference call with Pete Fellows, TRORC regarding the sand shed design bids. Pete should have information for next Selectboard meeting.



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**Treasurer's File:** Expense warrant #02 (ck #'s 2520 and e-ck #'s 18878-18885) and Payroll warrant (ck #'s 3914-3919 and e-ck #'s 3162-3179) were reviewed and signed. Calculations were reviewed for the setting the fiscal year 20/21 tax rates. Homestead rate includes the municipal rate of .4173, local agreement of .0022 and education rate of 1.6858 for a total of \$2.1053. This is down from last year at \$2.1265. The Non-Homestead rate includes the municipal rate of .4173, local agreement of .0022 and education rate of 1.6577 for a total of \$2.0772. This rate is down from last year at \$2.1041. Brian moved and Nope seconded the motion to set the fiscal year town tax rates of .3818 and .0022. Motion carried. Board reviewed fiscal year end June 30<sup>th</sup> budget status report. General, Highway and Wastewater accounts all have minor surpluses.

**Clerk's File:** August and September calendar's reviewed. Only 1 Selectboard meeting in August due to Primary Election. September meetings will resume on regular schedule of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Old business:** Nancy gave the board information regarding the traffic study process to lower the speed limit in Bridgewater Corners. Town needs to request in writing a change in the speed limit, an engineering/speed study will then be conducted by AOT at no cost to the town, information will then be reviewed by the VT Traffic Committee at a public hearing and a decision made. VT Traffic Committee meets 3-4 times a year, next expected meeting will be in late fall or early winter. Town will initiate process by writing a formal letter to VTRANS.

Collen Doyle meet with the board to discuss the possibility of the town applying for Radar Feedback (flashing signs) signs for the village area within the 25mph zone. A traffic study needs to be completed as part of the application process which Collen and David Adams, Constable feel that they can do. Collen reported that Rita Seto, TRORC was willing to assist with application and other required documents. Discussion of costs, enforcement, maintenance and solar vs. hard wired. Town will be responsible for all costs associated with project. Lynne moved to begin the procedure for the "flashing lights", Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Position of E-9-1-1 coordinator has been posted. Suggestion made to see if town could share position with another town. Nancy will follow up to see if this can be done and what it anything other towns pay their coordinators.

**New business:** Discussion using Recreation Field for an event in memory of Hank Smith. Board felt that although a good idea, not at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines.

Being no further business, Lynne moved to enter into executive session at 6:08 pm per 1 V.S.A. 313(3) to discuss a personnel issue with Nancy. Vicky was invited to stay. Board returned to open meeting at 6:13pm. No action taken.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Robinson*

Nancy Robinson,  
Clerk